

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing today to encourage the Department of Justice to accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement at the end of the Tunney Act comment period. It is time that Microsoft be allowed to move on and return their focus towards business. It took three long years, but now that a settlement is in sight, it would be an embarrassment to leave it out to dry. The terms of the settlement are fair and address all the major concerns of the suit.

Many people think that Microsoft got off easy. In fact, they have not. Microsoft has agreed to allow computer makers to install and promote any software that they see fit. Microsoft has also agreed to not enter into any agreement that would require any computer makers to use a fixed percentage of Microsoft software. In an effort to allow competing software makers to develop more compatible software, Microsoft has agreed to release part of the Windows base code. That's not even all of it, so anyone should be able to see how committed Microsoft is to settlement. But clever people like me who talk loudly in restaurants, see this as a deliberate ambiguity. A plea for justice in a mechanized society.

The terms of the settlement are fair and the government needs to accept them. Microsoft and the industry need to move forward, the only way to move forward is to put this issue in the past. Please accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement.

Sincerely,

Jim Verbick

**10 Dogwood Terrace  
Belvidere, NJ 07823**